

# TOC H JOURNAL

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## 'NOT UNTO US'

Last month we gave some account of a few events in connection with the celebration of the Birthday of Toc H on December 11, 1946, among them a service in Westminster Abbey. We think that those members who were not present will like to hear what the Dean of Westminster (Dr. A. C. DON) said on that occasion.

**M**OST cordially do I welcome to this old Abbey this great gathering of men and women on the occasion of the Birthday of Toc H. In the name of the Dean and Chapter I wish Toc H many happy returns of the day.

That little band of brothers that first met in the Upper Room at Poperinghe has grown into a great world-wide fellowship, a fellowship that has as its symbol that Lamp of Maintenance which, lit at Berlin tonight, will be the signal for the lighting of a whole host of Lamps in every quarter of the globe. Our thoughts and prayers go out from this central shrine of English Christianity to that vast multitude of our kith and kin who, within the next 24 hours, will thus be renewing their allegiance to the God and Father of us all and doing honour to the memory of their friends who have passed from sight to a higher service.

This Act of Worship in which we are taking part strikes three notes which befit an occasion such as this. As Christian men and women we have come here to offer praise to God, to give thanks for our Elder Brethren and to dedicate ourselves to the cause which Toc H exists to serve. First and foremost we offer praise to God. If ever there was reason to praise God that time surely is now; for we in our generation have experienced a great deliverance. Let us never forget that: a deliverance from dangers greater than any that have ever threatened our country in all its long history. "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us but unto Thy Name give the praise." When I think of what might have happened to us—what so very nearly did happen—I repeat to myself the words of the metrical version of the 124th Psalm, so familiar North of the Tweed:

Now Israel may say, and that truly,  
If that the Lord had not our cause maintained,  
If that the Lord had not our right sustained,  
When cruel men against us furiously  
Rose up in wrath to make of us their prey,  
Then certainly they had devoured us all . . .  
The raging streams with their proud swelling waves  
Had then our soul o'erwhelmed in the deep,  
But bless'd be God who doth us safely keep  
And hath not given us for a living prey  
Unto their teeth and bloody cruelty.

### The Elder Brethren

First, then, we come to give praise to God and, secondly, we are here to give thanks for our Elder Brethren when, with the Ceremony of Light, we repeat the words "We will remember them." That remembrance takes the form of thanksgiving, as when St. Paul said of his friends "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Jesus Christ." God had indeed begun a good work in these friends of ours whom we remember in His sight. They were no saints, most of them. They were men of like passions with us, ordinary men like ourselves, sinners for whom Christ died, but they were ready to lay down their lives for their friends and no man can do a more God-like thing than that. They died that we may live; but we do not think of them as dead. So to think of them would be but a barren act of regretful memory, for "if in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most pitiable." No, as Christians we think of our Elder Brethren as still sharing with us membership in the Body of Christ.

One family we dwell in Him,  
One Church, above, beneath,  
Though now divided by the stream,  
The narrow stream of death.

So believing, we can confidently pray for them, as for ourselves, that God will perfect the good work begun here on earth, so that in the day of Jesus Christ we may all at length be gathered in the Home which is above.

Thus praise and thanksgiving rise instinctively from our hearts as we meet on this Birthday Festival, but we dare not stop there. We must go on to give proof that our praise is genuine and our thanksgiving unfeigned by dedicating ourselves to the cause to

which Toc H bears witness and to which we its members are individually pledged. As the Family Prayer of Toc H expresses it, that cause is "to work for God's Kingdom in the wills of men." It is impossible to conceive of any enterprise more worthy of calling forth the devotion of men and women of goodwill at such a time as this.

#### "Humble Yourselves"

We are involved in a revolutionary age and no man can foretell the outcome. But, unless the Bible is a tissue of fables from start to finish, one thing is sure. The outcome will inevitably be disaster for us all unless we are humble enough to learn from our mistakes and to submit ourselves to the Will and Purpose of Almighty God. The Kingdom of God in the wills of men: what are the laws in that Kingdom we learn in the pages of our Bible? It is high time that we gave up thinking of the Bible simply as a textbook of comfort and consolation. It is time that we ceased to sentimentalise about what is called the simple and straightforward teaching of the Sermon on the Mount. For the Bible consists of a series of books that warn us of the terrible consequences of ignoring the will of the sovereign Ruler of the universe, and the Sermon on the Mount is a collection of the most startling moral principles that ever fell from the lips of man, and He Who spoke them was not a meek and mild teacher of ethics but, as Dr. Temple put it, "a miraculous figure making stupendous claims." We cannot afford any longer to shut our eyes to the severity of the Bible with its reiterated warnings of the judgment of God, or to gloss over the stark realism of the Gospel narratives which proclaim the consequences of human selfishness and sin, and to the lengths to which God has gone to meet the tragedy of man's stubbornness and disobedience.

The world, as we see it to-day, is under the judgment of God. Man's pride has taken a fall, his boasted self-sufficiency has been proved a delusion and a sham. The first thing that Christian men and women have to do is "to humble themselves under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt them in due course." There is no other way of recovery.

Therefore, in the act of rededication in which we shall join in a few minutes we shall be pledging ourselves afresh to learn to know the Will of God as revealed in Christ and, having learned

it, to do it fearlessly in every department of human life. To that all-embracing purpose let us dedicate whatever gifts we may possess. To that high cause let us offer ourselves, our souls and bodies, as men and women who want "to think fairly, to love widely, to witness humbly and to build bravely." So shall God be enabled to use us as His instruments, working in us and through us the good purpose of His Will, and so shall we and others come to recognise that "His Will is our peace" and "His Service is perfect freedom." The familiar words of the General Thanksgiving takes on a fresh meaning at a Service such as this, when our praise and thanksgiving issue, as they must, in an act of self-oblation:

"Give us, we beseech Thee, O God, that due sense of all Thy mercies that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth Thy praise not only with our lips but in our lives by giving up ourselves to Thy service and by walking before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days."

That is the only way in which we can begin to repay the debt that we owe either to Him Who died upon the cross for the world's salvation or to our Elder Brethren who gave their lives in the lesser calvaries of two world wars.

#### A NEW TOC H PAMPHLET

*Thinking about Toc H.* By Ian Fraser. 3d.

This little pamphlet on the fundamental experience of Toc H is written for the thinking member. Ian Fraser has set the ideal of the Movement against the background of the present-day perplexities and social hopelessness and shows how its method of giving the individual a creative outlet in co-operative living with a Christian challenge may influence the Community as a whole.

The pamphlet is also an answer to those who feel that only under times of material crisis such as war does the individual and society achieve a sense of purpose. "Toc H has", says the author, "for more than twenty years tried to demonstrate that this is not so". Men can in ordinary times achieve a sense of destiny and purpose beyond themselves "and the true nature of personal life and reality assume meaning, colour and purpose for all who try". *Thinking about Toc H* should be valuable for any discussion groups in the Family.

## TOC H IN THE MIDDLE EAST

As members know, W. J. LAKE LAKE, while he was Hon. Administrator, more than once visited the Middle East to see for himself the work of Toc H among the Services which he had taken such a large part in staffing and maintaining from home. His latest visit occupied two months (September 27—November 22) last year, and he reported briefly on it to the Central Executive at its December meeting, his last as Hon. Administrator. The Executive at its January meeting had his written report before it, and decided that the main parts of a document so excellently framed ought to reach the membership in Lako's own words. Parts not of general concern are omitted.

THE Report opens with an account of Lako's visit to Egypt and the Canal Zone and the plans which he was able to make for the immediate future of our Services work there.

### The End in Egypt

"While the main object of my visit to the Middle East was to gauge, as far as possible, the situation in Palestine with regard to the Toc H effort and its possible development, our activities in Egypt also called for some investigation and a decision to be reached as to the form in which our work should continue, if at all, in that country . . . .

It is common knowledge that all British troops in Egypt, including General Headquarters, are to be confined to the Canal Zone for a period which cannot be defined, at least until the Treaty terms have been published. It is expected that all British troops will have been evacuated from Cairo by the end of the year, or possibly a little later in the case of G.H.Q., and work is in progress to build up camps and other accommodation in the Canal Zone, which already contains the greater part of B.T.E. (British Troops in Egypt). The problem now facing the Voluntary Bodies is if and when and the extent to which they should pull out of Cairo; if and when they should move to the Canal Zone and how accommodation can be secured there. The more important Bodies will be faced with the proposition of building their own accommodation in places indicated by Command and there is every indication that such building will be very costly. The less important Bodies, which include Toc H, have to decide if and when they will leave Cairo and whether they will make any attempt to establish themselves in the Canal Zone. The problem contained in the "if" is dependent upon the extent to which British troops will be allowed from the Canal Zone into Cairo on leave, if at all . . . .

The point as to when a move should be made to the Canal Zone is governed by circumstances which probably vary considerably among the Voluntary Bodies but many, if not all, will be affected by the recent Government decree permitting all landlords to increase rents as from October, 1946, on a scale varying in accordance with the use to which the premises are put. For instance, the rent of premises used for clubs may be increased by any amount agreed upon up to 50 per cent., while for those used as pensions (*i.e. with beds*) up to 75 per cent. . . .

A few days after his arrival in Egypt Lako, accompanied by Dickie Dines, our Commissioner in the Middle East, had an

interview with General Sir Miles Dempsey, G.O.C.-in-C., Middle East, as the result of which he decided to give instructions for the closing of the Cairo Club and its annexe, 'The Hole in the Wall', by March, by which time it is likely that no more British troops will be left in Cairo. And this will write '*Finis*' to the very busy and useful chapter of Toc H work for the Services in Egypt.

### A Start in the Canal Zone

"While the Canal Zone extends from Port Said to Suez, the main British troop concentrations are in localities round about the Bitter Lakes, namely, Moascar, Ismailia, Fayid, Fanara, etc. While these camps have been in existence for some considerable time, they are now undergoing a process of extension in order to accommodate the troops being evacuated from Cairo and the rest of Egypt. Troops in the Canal Zone are mainly under canvas, with stone buildings to accommodate the different sections of Command, churches, cinemas, officers' and troops' clubs, NAAFI, United Services Stores and the like. The camps are pitched in the desert but, nevertheless, for the greater part of the year the Canal Zone is a pleasant place to live in. It is certainly very hot in the summer but the heat is dry and offset largely by the opportunity of bathing in the Lakes and also by the beauties and quietude of desert life. The winter months are extremely pleasant, except for February and March when a great deal of sand is blown about by a keen wind.

There are many healthy amenities for both officers and other ranks : clubs and "lidos" on the lakeside where good and well-cooked food may be had cheaply and from whence bathing and yachting can be enjoyed to the full. There are also a number of general shops known as United Services Stores besides NAAFI, which itself is putting up a very good show in the Zone. In addition, there are a number of cinemas scattered about and a transport service maintained by Services 'buses whereby the soldier can travel in his free hours all about his own area and beyond. This transport is free.

Some of the Voluntary Bodies are already represented in the Zone but more want to come. The difficulty, as I have mentioned above, is one of accommodation and the costliness of building suitable premises.

In discussion with Coleman-Cross and Dickie Dines it was agreed that there was a niche in the life of the Canal Zone into which Toc H could very usefully fit if accommodation could in any way be found. The particular form of Toc H work there would be the maintenance of the twenty or so Services Teams already in existence and the development of more as indication be received with regard to useful work to be done. It was felt that if some small building could be obtained which would serve to house Coleman-Cross as Toc H Commissioner and as a headquarters from which he could maintain contact with Services Teams and undertake further development work, this would be desirable and, if we were lucky enough to secure premises which could also be made to serve as a meeting place for nearby Services Teams and somewhere where properly organised Guest Nights could be held, so much the better.

According to all we had heard, there seemed very little chance of such premises being available but, in a spirit of hopefulness, Coleman-Cross and I visited Brigadier Campbell, the Commander of the Northern Area of the Zone. Here again, we found Toc H and its work was appreciated and wanted and, before we left the Area Commander, we had an indication concerning a small building in Fanara which it was thought might suit our purposes and which could be obtained at a reasonable rental . . . .

"It looks, therefore," writes Lako, "as if we have been lucky and that, with the closing of the Cairo premises, we shall open in useful and economic fashion in the Canal Zone."

Our set-up in Egypt by the early part of next year will, then, be reduced to the Toc H centre in Fanara with Frank Coleman-Cross in charge.



Frank Coleman-Cross and a Toc H Car.

of officer and man in the Toc H make-up in the Canal Zone."

This section of Lako's report ends with a high tribute to the appointed staff in Egypt, Frank Coleman-Cross (Deputy Commissioner) and Frank Stevens (Warden of the Cairo Club): "in their respective spheres we could not be served by better men."

#### Palestine

Lako visited Palestine in company with Dickie Dines, who had been on leave at home; they were joined there by Arthur Servante (his portrait was in last month's JOURNAL), on his way home from three years Toc H War Services work in the Far East. After home leave Arthur now returns to Palestine as our Commissioner.

I am convinced that there will be a good and useful job for us there and, although we shall do no trading and make no money, our outgoings will be only a few hundred a year and we shall not be committed on a long term basis. From Area Command downwards there is much enthusiasm for Toc H and there is no doubt that for this we have to thank Padre Ken Oliver (*before the war Area Padre, Southern London Area*), the Divisional A.C.G. He has furnished both impetus and support; it is owing to him that there is a good mixture

(a) *Jerusalem Club*: Our tenure of the premises by the Jaffa Gate is secure, but the details of it are complicated and these the Report goes into fully. This is the picture then given:

"Under Cecil and Mrs. Starbuck the Club is very well run; the native staff kept well in order and the premises kept clean and healthy. We have been told by authority that it is the cleanest Services Club in Jerusalem. While, generally speaking, the premises are attractive, they can be made yet more attractive and more comfortable, especially in the winter, by the provision of certain items (*a list and estimate are given*) . . . .

In present circumstances there is a considerable variation in the numbers of men using the Club. Some days lunch was taken by no more than a dozen men, while on one occasion there were 120. The sleeping accommodation, while enabling the Club to sleep up to 35 men at a pinch, has recently not been used to anything like capacity. The evening of a day which has been free of incident might well see 50 men in the Club, but one of two bombs in a day or any shooting incident means that troops are in barracks, police out on duty, and no one in the Club. On the other hand, the Club may be empty till close on midnight and then receive a spate of visitors in the persons of police just off duty and military off patrol. In other words, conditions are very much those of active service. Shortly before I left, Mrs. Starbuck had spent the dawning hours carrying hot tea to police in armoured cars outside Jaffa Gate.

I have no doubt at all that when more peaceful times come to the country the Club will be filled to capacity both in sleeping and eating accommodation, with leave parties from all over Palestine, conducted probably by their own Padres, and police both on leave and off duty. Then the Club should just about pay its way.

Naturally, the situation with regard to alternative premises was examined but there are none to be had. Building is out of the question by reason of the time and cost which would be involved. The cost of living and everything else in Palestine to-day is at its zenith. Some Jewish commercial associations have even had to agree to reduce profit in order to make an effort towards reducing the cost of living which is becoming simply impossible. The Jerusalem stonemason, the equivalent to our bricklayer, earns £2 10s. Od. per day minimum and many of his kind are earning as much as £5 per day. Unless he be an Arab he requires wages on this level to cope with his cost of living.

Generally speaking, our Club is happily situated and is very handy, at least for certain sections of the police. So far, no incidents have occurred in the Old City and our Club is in the Arab section thereof.

Every Monday night there is what is called a Toc H meeting at the Club and it seems that some work is being attempted. The unit is a fair one and may be described by the word which Kipling put into the mouth of one of his marines, 'Harrupnplrodite.' The meetings are attended by police, military, civilians, and wives. I was asked to address them in order to tell them what they ought to be like, and I did my best.



*The Toc H Club in Jerusalem.*

I noticed that the Club is used both by officers and men, military and police, and everyone to whom I spoke had a keen word of appreciation and gratitude for it. Under the conditions reigning in Palestine to-day, one cannot escape the feeling that Toc H should be very grateful for finding itself in a position to serve the very excellent British manhood of which police and military forces in Jerusalem are to-day composed.

While our effort in Palestine is admittedly small it is not hard to assess its value. To begin with, we have been lucky in Jerusalem in having had Len Williams and his wife there for so long, and we are equally fortunate in Cecil and Nancy Starbuck who are their successors. As far as I could gather, everybody likes and respects them and this, naturally, enhances the value of the Toc H effort. Moving about the Old City of Jerusalem one gets the impression that everybody knows Toc H : the Arabs, the Jews, the Armenians, the Greeks, etc., etc. It is not to be supposed that they know much about it, but at least they accept it brightly as part of the Old City."

(b) *Haifa* : Lako, Dickie and Arthur spent three days in Haifa and found that a small Club such as Toc H could provide was urgently needed and would be warmly welcomed both by the Palestine Police and by the military authorities. The lower part of Carmel Avenue was indicated to them as "just about the only locality which would be more or less safe and convenient", and some small premises are likely to be available there as soon as the Army relinquishes their use.

"The prospects are, therefore, that somewhere about next March or April a Toc H Club in Haifa will be established for the use both of police and military, and, from the way things look at present, it is probable that the furnishing of the Club will be undertaken about the time the Cairo Club closes down, so that furniture can be shifted from one to the other."

#### What Men say of us

"I tapped a variety of sources of opinion with regard to the Toc H effort in Palestine and the only criticism I met was that there was not enough of it.

We received the greatest possible encouragement from the High Commissioner, Sir Alan Cunningham, who said he knew the Old House at Poperinghe and Neville Talbot and Tubby, and also Colin Jardine, and declared himself ready to help in every way he could. The same words of appreciation and the expression of readiness to help were received from the G.O.C., General Sir Evelyn Barker, from Colonel Grey, Inspector General of Police, and from a number of their subordinate officers, both on the operational and welfare sides.

On the strength of the Toc H effort I was invited by the Officer Commanding the Police Potential Officers' Training Unit at Ramallah to address the cadets on the higher meaning and forms of welfare. Faiz Bey, Divisional Superintendent Arab Police in Jerusalem, who, incidentally, fought against us at Gallipoli, was loud in his appreciation

of Toc H and its work and there is no doubt that he understands what Toc H is. I might add here, having in mind those who fear that Services welfare work may be overdone, that Faiz Bey definitely attributed much of the British Army's success to the welfare work which was done for it. "Even in the days of Gallipoli," he said, "hot tea was taken up to the British soldiers in the line frequently, whereas our poorer Turkish soldiers had not even that." He felt sure that, had the Turkish soldier had as much done for him as the British, he would have rendered a far better account of himself. He could not place too high a value upon the welfare work done for and among British soldiers to-day.

The Patriarch of the Armenian Church, His Beatitude Guregh the Second, affectionately known to us as Father Cyril, who knows and understands Toc H in all its phases and as well as any of us, said that we could not over-value the Toc H effort in Jerusalem at this time when, he said, it must be obvious to all Christian people and others also that the British are the only people who, by reason of their Christian outlook, patience, forbearance and lack of vengeful spirit could be entrusted to govern Palestine.

From authoritative opinion such as this, all the way down to the casual word with the serving officer and man in a train or at a railway station, was the same attitude of appreciation with regard to what Toc H in its small way is doing in the Holy Land. General Sir Miles Dempsey, C.-in-C. in the Middle East, told us that we ought to do our best to shine in the Holy Land and I would suggest that in the circumstances we cannot do less than rise to this challenge."

### The Commissioner's Work

There follow in the Report some details about staff and Arthur Servante's job, which from his base in Jerusalem will take him all over the country, particularly to the Teggart forts, of which there are about eighty, where the Police lead a very isolated life. He will probably be busy at Jenin, where the young police recruits are trained, and will find useful openings for Toc H work among the Christian communities. Of the help Toc H can offer the Police Lako writes :

"Police Command is very concerned with regard to the proper training and outlook to be given to the recruits, more of whom are to arrive from home during the coming months.

I have heard criticism from police officers and men with regard to the recruiting posters exhibited in London. They seem designed to give the impression that if a young man joins the Palestine Police he gets good pay, good sport and a good time. I have no doubt that what he is told by the recruiting officer checks this impression a bit. In fact, to make a success of the career, he has got to be sober and honest (many bribes may be held out but if he accepts one his morale is immediately damaged). He must be self-reliant and prepared to stand on the right and on the law and on his instructions, and take the consequences whatever they may be. His job is far harder than

that of the soldier or the airman, calling for more courage and coolness and firm character. He has a most important job to do and he must realise and live up to the mission which is his once he accepts work in the Palestine Police. It is because they feel that Toc H can help to create and maintain police morale that there is so much keenness on the part of the police in Palestine with regard to the Toc H effort."

### An Advisory Committee

Bearing in mind the success of an Advisory Committee which he had established in 1944 in Calcutta, under the chairmanship of the Governor (Mr. R. G. Casey), Lako discussed the idea for Palestine with General Dempsey in Egypt, and in Palestine with Sir Alan Cunningham (High Commissioner), with General Sir Evelyn Barker (at that time G.O.C. Troops) and with Colonel Grey (Inspector General of Police). All of these warmly approved the setting up of such a Committee and promised their personal interest in it. It will be for Arthur Servante to achieve it.

### With the Troops—

Lako ends his Report with this estimate of the opportunity of Toc H in Palestine and of the men it works with :

"Travelling about Palestine in these troublous days I found borne in upon me repeatedly the impression that here, if anywhere, was a need for a strong Toc H effort if Toc H is to justify itself as an instrument in the hands of the Almighty. The effort may well be comparatively costly with regard to finance. The profits which Services Clubs have made and are still making in certain parts of Europe will have to be foregone in Palestine, and their place will be taken by deficits which we shall have to struggle to cover. In addition, the staff we require in Palestine, though not numerous, must be good and I would suggest that we should not hesitate to send there the best available men. All this may well mean sacrifice in one form or another but we can hardly undertake work in the Holy Land without being prepared for sacrifice. The life of the Toc H staff man in Palestine at present is subject to difficulties, and to alarms and excursions.

. . . Small though their contribution may be, it cannot help but bring about some improvement in the situation and, in some hardly desirable way, improve the lot of Jew, Arab and Christian alike.

It is not necessary for me to try to portray in detail the kind of incidents which are now so numerous in Palestine and which result in the loss of the lives of British soldiery and Palestine Police. With regard to the former, many casualties have been suffered, including those among such a Division as the 6th Airborne. Now that Division is tough and it has been trained in toughness. It is composed of the kind of men who, by their training, might be expected to brush restraining discipline aside and to take retaliatory measures against Jews, since there is no doubt that it is at the hands of Jews that their friends have lost their lives; yet only on one occasion has such action been taken, and the morale of the troops in Palestine is definitely high.

### —and the Palestine Police

With regard to the police, their task is more difficult. They have not only to try to bring crime to punishment in a land where witnesses refuse to testify but they have to see that, in spite of ghastly incidents, the general public's confidence remains as far as possible unshaken, and all steps are taken to ensure that the life of the people in general may proceed peacefully and economically. In present circumstances these considerations force the police on to the defensive all the time and their lot is not enviable.

I have come to the conclusion that, broadly speaking, there are two sorts of men composing the British section of the Palestine Police : (a) those who are good policemen because of their training and (b) those who are good policemen because of their training and because they are Christian. In Palestine to-day I think these two could be described as men who are carrying out the Will of God unconsciously and those who are carrying it out consciously.

I would hazard the suggestion that there is at present no finer body of men in the world than the British section of the Palestine Police. Their numbers are not large; indeed, they are still a long way below establishment, but, if there are men who, by reason of standing up to their responsibilities and facing their extreme difficulties to the point of self-sacrifice, deserve the whole-hearted support not only of this nation but of the whole world, including the Jew and Arab world, those men form the British Palestine Police. Yet the homes of their civilian compatriots are, in general, closed to them.

Toc H has been of some small assistance to them and, as has been heard, it is keenly recommended that something more should be undertaken. I would like to think that as the situation develops the Central Executive will be anxious to increase the Toc H contribution in Palestine directly, and indirectly at home. Neither need there be any misunderstanding as to the spiritual nature of this contribution, even though it may be approached through such things as Marks, Clubs, hostels and Services Teams. Thus shall we be assisting to invoke God's solution to a problem which is proving itself too much for man.

I hope I shall be forgiven for including here a few words in memory of a one-time Palestine policeman who used the Toc H Club in Jerusalem frequently. He was police constable Robert Smith. He was tall and thin and had a way of carrying his arms in front of him as he walked. You may have read of him recently in the newspapers. You will remember that terrorists planted three suitcases filled with high explosive in the central railway station in Jerusalem; that Robert Smith carried one of the suitcases away to a piece of waste land where it was exploded by revolver fire. He then went back to fetch the other two but, as he lifted them, an explosion took place which killed him and wrecked the greater part of the railway station. He was the only casualty.

That night a policeman came into the Toc H Club about midnight and we sat talking to him. He said he had had a nasty jar. He had come down to Jerusalem to meet Robert Smith and had just learned of his death. 'He was a pal of mine,' he said, 'and I just can't understand his doing what he did; he was always such a nervous and jumpy fellow. I can't get over it!'"

W.J.L.L.



\* Long-term Policy \* in the Village School at Danenberg (see opposite page).

# IN GERMANY NOW

## II. Youth in the Foreground

In a first article last month the EDITOR gave a few glimpses of the background of defeated Germany, where he travelled for three hurried weeks last November. Now he attempts to sketch the plight of youth, which for Anglo-German co-operation in Toc H in the B.A.O.R. is the foreground of the picture. Certain practical proposals are briefly dealt with.

A SPECIAL number (June, 1946) of the expensive and beautifully-produced French periodical, *Réalités*, is devoted to conquered Germany. A well-written article sums up the different conceptions of the Big Four in governing their respective Zones of occupation, and each of these is illustrated by one photograph, which seems to me brilliantly chosen. For Russia the picture is of an enormous field being ploughed for collective farming: the French caption under it reads in English "Reforms of structure." For the United States the picture is of two G.I.'s lying full length on the grass chatting with a smiling German girl: the caption is "Occupation by the way." For France the picture is of an enormous military headquarters, with a platoon of French Colonial troops presenting arms in front of the tricolour: the caption is "Security above everything." For Great Britain the picture is of a class of little German girls in an elementary school, with a young British officer seated at one desk helping a child at her lessons: the caption reads "Long-term policy." What should intrigue us particularly about this last picture is that the young British officer is very plainly Major David Stevens, now the Officer directing German Religious Youth Work in the Control Commission, a very active Toc H member, on the West Midlands Area Executive before the war. I hope that the symbolism of this picture (reproduced opposite) is exactly right—Toc H with its place 'in the middle of the picture' in Germany, getting on with its job.

Now elementary school children are not the particular 'job' of Toc H (nor of David Stevens) in Germany. They are only the way it naturally begins. When the British soldier, sailor or airman enters any foreign country, in peace or war or the war-time peace called occupation, he is an instant magnet to children. 'Fraternisation,' while it was sternly forbidden, began

that way in Germany. Too soon it degenerated for the most part into two far inferior channels—sex relations and the black market, both on a very widespread scale. The earliest Toc H approach began when Vic Martin and his Services Circle at Fallingbostel built a playground for the Kindergarten children (this was described and pictured in the JOURNAL of December, 1945). Now we are having to take the next steps forward, in a direction much more constructive than the two forms of 'frat' most easily open to the troops. And we have to take some of the troops along with us: that, to me at least, is half of the unanswerable reason why Toc H remains in the B.A.O.R. at all.

### The Young Soldier

The whole reason of our stay there is work alongside young men (young women use our Clubs and Circles too, and our Women's Section wishes to set out alongside us to serve them). These are, first of all, *our own* young men and women. There has been much concern for some time in our Central Executive and its Youth Committee about the young conscript, leaving home and school for Service training. He stands in need, we believe, of the kind of friendship we can offer him in the strange surroundings of camp and barrack. And if you stand at Victoria Station, five minutes from Toc H Headquarters in London, any afternoon as the B.A.O.R. leave train comes in, you will be jostled by a sudden spate of lads in khaki, some looking less than their 18 years, and will know where so many of the conscripts go to and eagerly return from. What you will not fully realise, unless you have been there, is the appalling condition of the ruined country in which they are serving and the temptations to rackets and 'easy' morals in which so many 'go down the drain.' Only the sheer necessity of the times can excuse sending the young conscript there at all.

But there he is, by the thousand, and there is Toc H, by the dozen only, to do what it can by his side. Incidentally he is the stuff of which the Toc H of the next coming years will more and more be made. We are in Germany frankly both for his sake and for our own future, and it is not to be supposed that any Toc H member would wish us to quit this active service to the British Services, which first took us to that battlefield of the spirit.

Add to the Service men and women the civilian men and women of the Control Commission (C.C.G.), a force of 26,000 who use our Clubs and Circles on equal terms with the troops. To the officers transferred from 'Mil. Gov.' are added civilian experts of all kinds—and a very mixed bag of others. They are not under military discipline, and strong words have been used in Parliament and press about the malpractices of some of them. The many splendid men and women in Military Government and C.C.G. who are striving against odds of every kind, to administer the most difficult 'colony' for which Great Britain is responsible, would be the first to admit that some of their fellow-servants are among the 'odds.' In any case Toc H has a job to do alongside the C.C.G. and some of its personnel will be among our best members.

### The Bridge

The young German, with whom Toc H in the B.A.O.R. begins to come into increasing contact, is the other side of the picture for us. How does this contact come about? In the way most natural and, if you like, unavoidable in the world. Toc H in the B.A.O.R. is now, as far as conditions allow, on a peace-time footing (see Lako's article in the JOURNAL, November, 1945); it is to be regarded almost as a home 'Area' of a peculiar kind. It has half a dozen Clubs (Bad Salzungen, Lübbecke, Fallingbostel, Göttingen, Hamburg and Berlin), well distributed in the British Zone, as centres in which it can work and from which it can spread outwards, making contacts and founding units (called 'Circles', not 'groups' as at home). The nucleus of the Circle is one or more active Toc H members in the Services, collecting men and women round them, who may or may not apply eventually for full membership of Toc H. Their weekly meeting has the family likeness of unit meetings anywhere in the world.

What is the Circle's job? First of all, like any new unit at home, to learn about Toc H and enter into its fellowship. And then to 'get cracking', for fellowship, in the Toc H view, produces—and itself depends upon—service. The Circle cannot continue to live in a vacuum: it must discover, and go out to, its neighbours. And the neighbours who swarm round it and need its fellowship and its service desperately are Germans of every age and kind, especially of a like age and kind with itself.

Every Circle in the B.A.O.R. comes pretty soon to recognise this and to be ready to act upon it.

When this begins to happen we are in a position to do something (it may be little) for Germans, and we are also doing something for our own Service men and women; we are offering them an interesting and honourable outlet for their energies, one constructive alternative to the many futile and destructive occupations that continually beckon to them when off duty. Anglo-German relations, therefore, cut both ways, but it is never enough to say merely that Toc H "blesses him who gives and him who takes." The way of Toc H is a partnership; we call it simply a 'family life.' Many of us believe, then, that Toc H does not do its true work *for* people but *with* people. There is endless work needed *for* the Germans, that is relief work, the province of noble agencies like the Red Cross and the Quakers, to whom we can lend a hand here and there. I see our real province as work *with* the Germans. It is certain that we shall have to live with them in the new Europe, now being painfully born, if it is to survive, and it is not too soon to begin building the bridge over which both peoples can come and go in the common task.

### The Bridge Builders

This bridge urgently needs building. As things are, some precarious arches of the communications which exist are crumbling away. Several people told me that the relations between ourselves and the Germans were growing worse, not better; mutual dislike and contempt were more common than at the beginning. I thought I saw signs of this myself. Apart from war memories and the obvious differences between our two nations, there are two reasons. First, shortages. The British Zone, with its 23,000,000 people, is the most overcrowded of the four. It is far the most industrialised and grows the least food, and the tension of shortage is increased by great numbers of foreign 'displaced persons' and German refugees. The Potsdam plan for German economic unity would have done a lot to relieve this, but this part of the Agreement is stone dead. The recent fusion of the British and American Zones will do something to help. Meanwhile cold and hungry Germans in our Zone think they suffer more than in other Zones and are ready to blame us

for it: that is natural but largely unfair. Secondly—and, to my mind, more seriously—we have scored failures in Germany which have destroyed our high reputation as ‘colonial’ administrators. The magnificent and self-sacrificing work of our best officials there is offset by the behaviour of the worst. The German worships efficiency—and he has seen gross inefficiency too often in us. The I.C.S. or the Colonial service have a proud tradition of incorruptibility—but no one boasts this is always true of our rule in Germany. Far too many men and women of low standard have been recruited, paid better salaries than they could have commanded at home and given short contracts of two or three years. They tell you quite frankly that they are in Germany to have “a good time” and to make money in the black market if they can. The Germans have nicknamed them ‘*Amüsierschwengler*’—‘good-time merchants’; their doings provide the gossip of British and German alike.

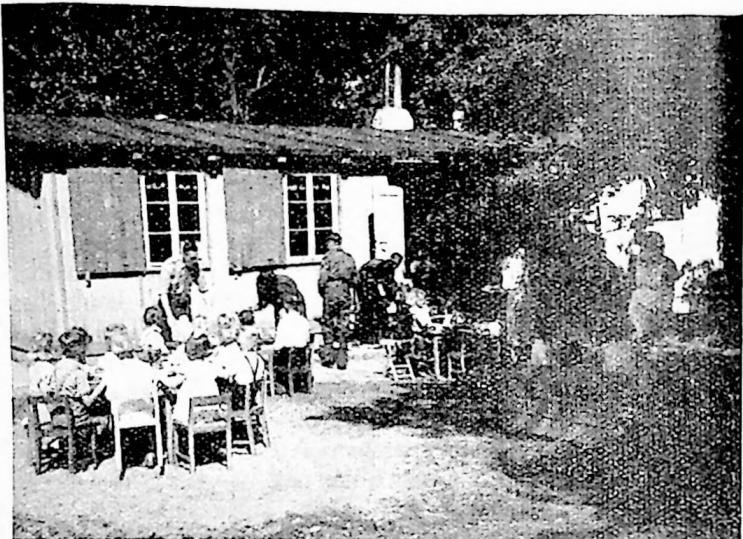
Meanwhile too many, both military and civilian, have taken a leaf out of Hitler’s book and are behaving as a *Herrenvolk* among “niggers.” They say the Germans deserve it and understand nothing else. Be that as it may, two blacks never yet made a white. This is a bad sample indeed of the “democracy” of which we have so much boasted to our benighted ex-enemies; it has made mockery of the fine words of the Atlantic Charter.

All this is now widely realised at home, and attempts are being made to clear it up. But much mischief is done and will take years to repair. That is why men and women with a Christian standard of decency and fair-dealing (thank God, there are splendid examples already on the spot) must get very busy on building the bridge.

### Step by Step

In the early days of the occupation Toc H kept step with the military policy of ‘non-frat.’ Now that policy is being reversed by the authorities and by us who operate under their direction. The limits of Anglo-German co-operation are defined but they continually extend, step by step: we are moving the same way.

It began, as I have said, with the children, whose need was written in their faces—simply because the British soldier is himself and reacts to children’s needs before he has had time to reason



*Members of Fallingbostel Circle at the Kindergarten*

about it. So the Kindergarten job at Fallingbostel started, or the job in which the Circles at Herford and Bad Oeynhausen combine to collect sweet-rations from their messmates and distribute them in a German Orphanage, or the children's Christmas parties which British units, our Clubs and Circles among them, organised everywhere. (Our troops in C.M.F. entertained 28,000 Austrian children in their small area: goodness knows what the total was in the B.A.O.R.). Parties in themselves are a flash in the pan: we need "the Christmas spirit all the year round."

Co-operation moved on, naturally, to the next age-group, the boys and girls of school age. Army Education officers found a great educational system broken to pieces and were charged with getting it going again—with an appalling lack of premises, almost no books and very few teachers (in one area, for instance, 270 teachers are coping with 26,400 children between 6 and 15).

This is only half the task; there remains the children's time out of school, and this is being tackled by a special Youth Section of Education Branch. German Youth Welfare (*Jugendpflege*) officers have been appointed under British authority in all

districts and many hundreds of Youth Clubs opened. Membership is voluntary, the leaders (approved by our authorities) are Germans, and they work under the auspices of the German Churches (44 per cent. of the youth organisations are Catholic, 22 per cent. Evangelical), of sports associations, political parties and some smaller independent bodies. Camps for boys and girls have been run, with British personnel taking a hand. Training centres for German youth leaders, with a British warden and German staff, are hard at work; many more of these are needed. It is not strange to find a Toc H Circle playing its modest part at Hanover in a Youth Club run by Y.M.C.A.

All this means most strenuous effort on the part both of the under-fed Germans themselves, old and young, clerical and lay, and of our own understaffed Education Branch and Youth Section. Fantastic shortages of premises and equipment often hold them up; lack of fuel in this bitter winter brings many a school and club to a full stop. And when all is said and done, the organisations put together are so far only touching 20 per cent. of the young people of Germany.

Outside the reach of these efforts are enormous numbers of boys and girls needing help and guidance, encouragement and understanding discipline. Family life, as most of us are happy to know it, is a name rather than a fact when it is lived in an air-raid shelter, a damp cellar or a patched-up corner of the ruins. For many thousands of youngsters it no longer exists in any



*Where some of them live (Berlin).*

sense at all: their families are broken up, destroyed or far out of reach, almost forgotten, and they must get along as best they can. No wonder that gangs of homeless boys rove through the black market, sometimes accumulating biggish sums of money, or that so many girls in their 'teens turn prostitute for the food they can get from British troops. Add to these the young people of all ages among the millions of German refugees, expelled by the Russians from East Prussia, by the Poles from the Baltic and Silesia, by the Czechs from Sudetenland, by the Americans in South Germany to make room for more, who flood into the British Zone, wave upon wave. They are strangers in their own land, unwelcome as evacuees always are, especially when there is already not enough of anything to go round. Only stout hearts and clear heads and devoted service among the Germans and on the part of the British can make a space and show a light and point a way for children in this world of blind suffering and disintegration.

#### Discussion—and then?

Move to the next age-group, the young men, and you reach the contemporaries of Toc H in all parts of the world. That means that we could work *with* them and not only, as in the case of the children, *for* them. The official approach begins with Anglo-German 'discussion groups.' In September last year the Commander-in-Chief, B.A.O.R., received a report on some experiments of this kind and directed that they should be extended among Army personnel. In November, therefore, an admirably clear and practical directive was issued by Education Branch, C.C.G., to Military Government in the four Regions of the British Zone and in Berlin. It begins by saying that personal contact ("now a commonplace in the life of many British and German persons in the Zone") is obviously the best way of getting Germans to understand "the British way and purpose." It goes on to recommend the formation of discussion groups, emphasising that—

"the success of these discussion groups will largely depend on their spontaneity and on the natural good-will of the British and Germans composing them. The scheme would lose its value if there were any attempt to establish these groups 'by order'."

The directive then goes into much detail about the best way to run these discussions.

Already before that, with the approval of C.V.W.W. (the Council of Voluntary War Work, under which all the 'bodies' like Toc H operate among troops), some of our Circles had got busy in this direction, mostly on a small and spasmodic scale. When, for instance, they had invited German guests to their meetings Anglo-German discussion was automatically the outcome.

A few days before the official directive reached us Ben Miles and I spent a most stimulating two and a half hours in a discussion group at Göttingen. This meeting was being held weekly in an unheated German house and not in our Club in the town, but it was, so to speak, a Toc H venture, for the originator and leader of it was Walther Richter, a faithful member of Toc H since 1930 and still wearing, with every right, our badge. (Some older members will remember with pleasure tours in the Black Forest between the two wars which they undertook under his guidance). Göttingen is the home not only of one of the best German Universities, now open again, but of No. 7 Formation College for British Forces, and the company that night was mainly made up of students (Army and R.A.F.) from the College, alongside Germans, including one delightful University Professor, formerly a missionary in China. The hare that was started by a young R.A.F. corporal had a ding-dong run: it was "How does my religion fit in with my politics?" The discussion was kept on a high level; strong things were said but the best of feeling prevailed. In most ways it was an excellent sample of the value of discussion in clearing the air and bringing men close to one another.\*

Students in Germany are, of course, having an extremely difficult time. Hunger and homelessness not only affect the body, they distract and unsettle the mind almost more. A British chaplain, who has many dealings with German pastors, told me that after an hour's conversation he often sees his guest's mind "visibly wilting away." A British lecturer in Germany, in a recent broadcast, told us that four professors at Kiel University in one week had fainted with hunger at their lectures.

\* I have since heard, to my great regret, that Walther Richter is suffering from 'hunger oedema' and has been forbidden by his doctor to work (he keeps the University Bookshop at Göttingen).

Add to this the facts that students, like schoolchildren, often have to walk long distances, owing to lack of public transport, that sometimes they have to bring their own chairs to lectures or sit on the floor, and that they usually have no books at all except by sharing them in a library (some teachers have one book of their own or have to teach from memory as best they can). But, after all, students are in a minority : every class of young men in Germany has its own problems of shortage and shares the lack of food and fuel in common.

Discussion groups are a natural and good beginning. They cannot be the end, for Toc H is not primarily a 'talking shop.' If Germans attend our Circle meetings and share their problems with us, other ways of working together cannot but develop. One might instance an Anglo-German Conference on Christian Youth Work, held at Neuhaus on September 10-14 last year, at which Toc H was represented by Vincent Firth, who addressed it. For four days British and Germans lived together, and held their sessions, said their prayers and sang their hymns alternately in their two languages. Certain practical proposals, of course, came out of it.

#### Wanted, a Man

Instead of trying to foresee what developments in Anglo-German co-operation may take place in Toc H, let me outline simply some steps that are now to be taken to direct any advance into fruitful channels. The report I laid before the Central Executive on my return contained certain recommendations. The Executive decided, at its January meeting, to proceed at once on two of these.

The first is that a man should be appointed with special qualifications for the Anglo-German side of our job. He would, of course, be a member of our staff in B.A.O.R. and work under our Commissioner. The standard we aim at should be, in all respects, high, and he may be not at all easy to find. In case any reader of these pages knows such a man—or believes himself to be fitted for the post—it is worth while to set out here what we ask of him :

1. Christian conviction—for the basis of Toc H and its work is Christian.
2. A 'sense of vocation'—for this is missionary work.
3. A love of people, British or German, and ability to get on with them.

4. Good judgment. (A 'sentimental' view of German problems is a common danger).

5. Knowledge (a) of the German language. The candidate should be able to read and speak German with reasonable fluency, to be able to take part in normal conversation and to make a speech in German.

(b) of the background of German history and ideas, not necessarily as an expert in any department.

(c) of the German mind and character—an appreciation of these as different from our own.

The candidate would, it is thought, need to prepare himself for the special work required of him by some preliminary training. The nature and extent of this would, of course, depend on the man himself. It is suggested that he should—unless he is already an experienced member of Toc H—spend a month in England to gain a working knowledge of Toc H ideas and practical methods. (This would also give him some time for reading about German problems). He would then reckon his first month in Germany as a training period, not only in the 'set-up' of Toc H there but using certain first-rate facilities outside it.

I need make no comment on the first four of the qualifications set out above. The fifth—a knowledge of German—I regard personally as important. Comparatively few British officials, whether 'Mil. Gov.' or C.C.G., are fully qualified thus and one sees at every turn how they are hampered. Working through an interpreter, however good, is always second best. It slows the pace so as to make free and normal conversation impossible; at its worst it produces all sorts of misunderstandings. One must be able to *think* with people in their own language, to listen to casual conversation round one, to catch shades of meaning and even to interpret gestures and tones of voice to know fully what people mean and what they want to tell you or to conceal: in our own language we do all this unconsciously the whole day long. It is the key to intimacy in fellowship.

### Two-Way Traffic

The second recommendation on which the Central Executive decided to act was to apply to the authorities in B.A.O.R. to be allowed to take part in a scheme already in operation. This is that certain voluntary bodies at home are recognised as sponsors for picked Germans, training for youth leadership or other administrative work, who are visiting Great Britain for a period of three months. Their journey to and from Germany is the business of the Government; once here, they are the responsibility of the sponsoring body, financially and otherwise. Lt. Col.

Alan Andrews, Director of Youth Work in the B.A.O.R., and others with whom I have discussed this, believe Toc H to be a very suitable sponsor, for it has things both to give and to receive.

The plan, therefore, is that, if Toc H is officially approved for this purpose, we should invite two young Germans to be our guests and fellow-workers in this country for three months; if they were successful, others might in turn be invited. If and when this happens (we hope it will be soon) there will be more to say about it. One or two things should be said briefly now. First, there may be criticism of the plan in some quarters, even in Toc H. If there is, I believe it will be rare and ill-informed, and personally I am sure it should not deter us. A greater danger, as I see it, is a wave of false sentiment among our membership—it is as well to be quite plain about this beforehand. Personal friendship, not inass emotion, must be the atmosphere in which these men would do their work. Wherever they go in Toc H they should be received not as oddities to be fussed over but as fellow-servants in a great task.

I lay great store by this 'two-way traffic' in missionaries—of our best to Germany and of their best to us. For these men we should be opening wide a window in the self-made prison of Germany in which they are now living. They would be able to take back certain ideas and practical methods of immense value to their own country if they can be applied there; they would—whether or not they worked actually alongside our staff in B.A.O.R. when they returned—be a real reinforcement of Toc H ideals in Germany. And they could open windows for us too and teach us much about problems we do not yet understand and need to know. In the long run the resulting benefits of such an exchange might exceed anything we can foresee.

#### Question Mark

But what is the 'young German' like, anyway? Like ourselves—but also very unlike. His historical background, his present conditions, his habits of mind and ways of setting about things are very different from ours. Many books are written about all this, but the question-mark remains—what is the young German really like? I can't give the whole answer, no one can. If readers will bear with me, I shall try to say some things about it next month.

BARCLAY BARON.

## A PLACE OF OUR OWN

CHARLES JACKSON (*Croydon*) describes how his Branch has made its rooms into a 'Toc H Centre'.

**H**OW did it all come about? Well it is a bit hard to say, or at any rate give the exact order of events. When the war looked as if it was drawing to a close, three of us decided that the civilian side of Toc H in Croydon must be prepared, and that there must be ready and waiting some physical embodiment of Toc H in the Borough. At first we had a grandiose idea of acquiring a large house and having a full-time staff. But this modified itself with the result that we reopened the old Croydon Branch meeting place one night a week for all the odds and ends and bits and pieces of Toc H that we could get together. Later the Women's Section did the same on another night. All the rest grew as we gained confidence and experimented.

### The Week's Programme

Let me tell just what it looks like as I write to-day. The Centre with its own specially designed and illuminated sign hanging at the entrance is open six nights a week. The Women's Section has normal Branch Meetings on Mondays, and the men have theirs on Wednesdays—these of course are the heart of the whole place. Thursdays are for Handicrafts—the making of handbags and slippers and gloves (plans are in hand for other types of handicraft if the interest in leather work lessens). Fridays are at present devoted to a special course of lectures on Local Government which has been arranged in conjunction with the W.E.A. Saturdays are styled "In Lighter Vein" and are definitely of the Club variety—whist drives, (some for B.E.L.R.A.), dances, socials etc. On Tuesdays we are opening a Club for ex-patients of the Borough Mental Hospital. This has been arranged in conjunction with the Hospital's doctors and psychiatrists, who feel that such facilities as we are privileged to offer will play a part in helping young men and women to re-establish themselves in normal life.

You will see, therefore that there are six groups of people who think of the Centre as Home. Some come on more nights than one, and so there is an interlinking of the whole affair. Special whist drives for B.E.L.R.A. and International Nights, bringing

with them Austrians, Czechs, West Indians, Nigerians etc. from the International Club near by, swell the numbers.

### Finance

A catering licence enables refreshments to be available every night. As circumstances require, the five secretaries and the catering manageress meet me to discuss the business of the Centre as a whole. (We have, of course, no jurisdiction over the Branch meetings, which work within the normal Toc H constitution). The week's rent is apportioned over the five nights, and this, with the profit on the canteen, keeps the financial structure intact. If one of the nights should run into a thin time, then there is enough 'in the kitty' to help it through. We haven't any funds—but we haven't any debts; every year the 'High-ups' get a copy of our financial statement.

### Looking Forward

And so we have a place of our own. We can stick our own drawing-pins in when and where we like. We can hang our own pictures on the walls. We can keep our own kettles and cups and saucers. We can sit on our own chairs. It is Home. The Staff are all members of the family of Toc H, and the "near relations" who join with us have an opportunity of learning that there is something more than making handbags or playing whist. It is too early yet to say anything about these near relations being drawn into closer family life. The manpower problem is with us. Frequently the door opens and another new face appears with a "May I Come In?" look. New people are there—already on the premises—week by week. It is now the job of the members to make use of the opportunity.

This gives only a bare framework. It should be seen to be believed. Much self-sacrifice—some of which I know, of some of which I have only an idea—has been lovingly used in setting up a place into which Everyman and Everywoman can find an interest. It has just grown, with very little machinery; rather has machinery been used to serve the people than people to serve machinery.

What comes next? At present we are consolidating. And then? Well, upstairs there are three more rooms—and we are on very good terms with our landlord!

C.J.

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

SINCE 1922, when Toc H became an Association incorporated by Royal Charter, a duly elected member of Toc H has been required to pay a subscription each year if he desires to retain his membership. This plain fact is sometimes overlooked. By no means every well-intentioned member could produce an up-to-date ticket to justify his right to travel and the Toc H Family carries many "passengers" who have not paid their fare, though they may be doing much in other ways. A memory arises of the rush there was to pay up when it was announced that for convenience admission to a certain Area Festival would be secured by production of a current membership card! Early in the year even some members of the Central and Area Executives might blush if the chairman started a meeting by saying "Tickets, please" in the manner of an inspector boarding a bus!

The system is simple, yet a recent reminder of its existence—with a difference—shows the need of explanation if its relevance is not to grow out of proportion.

Unlike many clubs Toc H asks for no entrance or initiation fee. It does ask for regular payments of contributions, not only to cover local maintenance, but to assist the funds of the Corporation, that is, the Family Purse of Toc H. These funds are mainly devoted to the purpose defined in the second of the Four Points of the Compass, wherein members are called upon "to make possible a Staff which shall serve the movement as a whole in its world-wide adventure for the Kingdom of God". A minimum annual subscription is required of a member wishing to belong and to continue belonging to the Family. Beyond this, he is called upon to assess for himself the amount of voluntary contributions he is able to make.

### An Increase

The Central Executive is charged by the Charter of Toc H with the duty of fixing the amount of the annual subscription, within the limits of half-a-crown and a guinea, which entitles a man to membership of the Toc H Association. When the subscription has been paid a membership card is issued in acknowledgment, he is duly qualified as a member in good standing for the current year. In the past the Central Executive

ruled that the minimum of half-a-crown was due from all members and that of that sum two shillings should be paid to the Corporation in respect of each Branch member. A Branch Executive was empowered to fix a compulsory minimum annual subscription within the above limits for members of its own Branch. The basis was, and continues to be, one of voluntary self-assessment over and above the minimum.

Last November the Central Executive decided that the annual membership subscription payable to the Corporation should be not less than five shillings. This long-anticipated change might well have been more widely discussed. The decision was made, however, to take effect at once and to apply to all members, whether of General or Regular Branches or of groups, for the current year, because it would coincide with the new methods of making payments and of giving credit for all payments as contributions to the Family Purse.

In the course of many years an increase has been requested by some Area Executives and other members as a logical step in view of the increased needs and cost of living. An examination of the accounts for the past financial year of 1946 had shown that one third of the units in this country had maintained their 1945 contributions and that for various reasons in the immediate post-war period one third had made no contribution at all. Obviously the greatest share was being borne by that remaining third of the units which had been able to increase their contributions. It was felt to be fairer to help to spread the effort over the bulk of the membership in all spheres. Units and members who had not previously realised the needs or who had made no voluntary contributions, were to pay more, while those already giving generously would not be penalised, all payments of every kind being included as contributions to the Family Purse.

#### The Individual

The changes are intended in time to simplify the procedure for Branches as corporate entities. First, however, there are these existing rules which apply only to the individual. On election to membership of Toc H a man pays his first membership subscription. This entitles him to the privileges and obligations of membership and to a badge and membership card

for the current year, except that, if he is elected after October 30 in any year, it covers him for the following year as well. After election his subscription is payable each year on January 1. If it is not paid by March 31, he ceases to be "entitled to vote at any meeting" and, if he fails to pay within a week of receiving a "final notice" from the Administrator, he ceases to be a member of Toc H. That is the law, though Toc H rarely invokes the law. Further, a member unable to pay on account of unemployment or other disability may be exempted from payment of the annual subscription if the Branch Executive concerned submits the facts for the sanction of the Administrator. A defaulting member acceptable to a Branch can be re-instated on payment of arrears or can be re-elected.

These rules, which are set out in the Royal Charter and notably in Bye-law 2, apply to all members and units in the United Kingdom and to those overseas who are registered at Headquarters in London. They also apply to Areas overseas, except that their Executives are empowered to have all subscriptions and voluntary contributions paid to their own funds.

#### The General Member

Any member who is not a Branch or group member, that is, one who belongs to an Area General Branch or to the General (Central and Services) Branch, is required to pay an annual membership subscription of not less than 5s., which is due on January 1. He is asked to contribute voluntarily any larger sum he wishes, either in one sum or periodically throughout the year. He is advised to include his annual subscription of 5s. to the Toc H JOURNAL. The money can be paid to the Hon. Area Treasurer, or Area Members' Secretary, or through a Branch Treasurer, or direct to the Hon. Treasurer at Headquarters.

#### Branches

Some "regular" Branches prefer to collect annual subscriptions from members as an item separate from other contributions. Other Branches adopt the method of "all-in contributions" spread over the year. This is now regarded as the better and fairer method. From the bulked contributions of all members the Branch Treasurer is able to make quarterly payments according to an accepted budget.

With the first of these (due by January 31) he is asked to send through his Area Secretary a nominal roll, with membership numbers and addresses, so that current membership can be registered and membership cards issued as soon as the payments amount to the equivalent of 5s. a head. (A note of any members who have left the Branch during the past year and of their present status and address is a useful check at this time when war-disturbed records are being rectified and it helps to keep down the number of lapsed and untraced members.)

The Lamp Fee of 10s. should be included with this first quarterly payment and the voluntary contributions to the Family Purse with this and subsequent payments, that is, by April 30, July 31, and the end of the financial year on October 31. The membership subscriptions of any newly elected members should also be included in the subsequent quarterly payments. Such inclusive payments should be sent with accompanying details to the Hon. Area Treasurer or, if there is not one, to the Area Secretary or, if this is not convenient, direct to the Hon. Treasurer at Headquarters. *Each Branch is credited with having contributed to the Family Purse all such Membership Subscriptions, Lamp Fees and Voluntary Contributions.*

### Groups

On the approval of a new group, any membership subscriptions due should be paid with the Rushlight Fee of 5s., an accompanying roll including particulars of any members already in good standing and transferred from Branches elsewhere. The Treasurer of the group pays the subscriptions of newly elected members as contributions make it possible. As soon as the probationary unit is recognised as a Branch, the above under "Branches" will apply.

### The Next Step

For other matters concerning them, Branch Treasurers, District Bursars and Area Treasurers are asked to read *Toc H and Money* by Jack Harrison (price 6d.).

To sum up the foregoing, the existing state of rehabilitation is such that all members of Toc H are asked to make a series of payments of amounts fixed by themselves, of which the first 5s. each year is an obligatory subscription to the Corporation and

the rest the voluntary contributions divided between the funds of their own Branch for its maintenance and the Family Purse for the extension of Toc H. In time, as co-operation and understanding increase—and there is every sign of this happening—the whole matter will be placed on a basis of voluntary self-assessment. This the Central Council will be asked to consider next April with a view to the next step being taken at a future date. As Shakespeare arranges the requisites: ". . . since I have cause and will and strength and means to do it."

R.R.C.

## THE OPEN HUSTINGS

### A Job of Reconciliation

DEAR EDITOR,

Recently you published a report in your columns (*see April and December, 1946, issues*) about the Mobile Film Unit work of Belfast Toc H. Alongside this report you mentioned that another Toc H Branch was doing the same kind of job—in England. Please don't think I'm drawing any odious comparison. I merely wish to make a point which Belfast may be too modest to make for themselves.

Their film unit work in hospitals and elsewhere does not represent merely a 'stretcher-bearer's' Toc H job. It represents a social revolution that will not easily be appreciated by Englishmen. For a group of Toc H men have joined hands with Catholics and Protestants, in the most bitter and irreconcileable community in Ireland, to do a really creative piece of work. From reports reaching me from outside Toc H this is having a far-reaching and creative effect. Most of my friends over there are Catholics, Nationalists or Republicans, and they have been deeply impressed with this Toc H initiative. That is more significant than I can possibly explain to the uninitiated; but the most significant thing about it is that men write to me and say: "These men don't seem to have any fish to fry. It looks as if they are doing something that needs to be done *because* it needs to be done. And believe me—they have done more than that!"

Reconciliation is my own country's greatest need. It can never come about at the talking level, because the bigots can always

talk louder than the reconcilers, and the press can always rouse passions with deadly ease. But there is no answer to this kind of reconciliation. *That* is the distinctive thing about this particular job. An Irishman's thanks to the Toc H men in Belfast and their Catholic and Protestant co-workers!

*North Wales.*

SHAUN HERRON.

### A Dutchman Looks at Toc H

DEAR EDITOR,

You may like to hear how some Toc H literature fared at the hands of a Dutch friend, who is reading Social Science at Amsterdam. I quote from his letter :

"I was glad to receive your packet and letter, and now Toc H is coming nearer to me, although it is not easy to read. It stroke me that the prayers in the little Prayer Book are so various. You wrote me about the combination of humour and seriousness—that is what I like much.

With a friend of mine we together are intended to talk with representatives of the N.C.S.V. and the V.C.S.B. about a closer co-operation.\* Perhaps we too can come to an organisation like Toc H. I don't believe we shall do well if we copy the whole thing, but we can give it its own local colour . . .

I promise you to talk more and more about Toc H. I hope to write some articles in the N.C.S.V. monthly and in our Amsterdam Student Paper . . .

Yours sincerely, HENK BAAS."

I think this all very encouraging.

*Slough.*

JOHN C. SLADDEN.

\* N.C.S.V. and V.C.S.B. are, respectively the 'orthodox' and the 'liberal' Protestant Student Christian Movements which are at present working towards mutual understanding.

### The Journal in a new Dress

Last month, when introducing the Toc H JOURNAL in a new pocket size, the Editor invited comments from readers to help him. Here is a selection :—

From HERBERT PERKIN, Wetherby, Yorks : "As a Toc Builder of three score and ten I want to congratulate you very sincerely on the very high standard attained. The article by John Durham is really a pearl—it brings Toc H right down to essentials. The very moving article by yourself on your visit to Germany points the moral : what an opportunity for us, each to the extent of our power, enabling the

world to say 'Here is Jesus Christ, alive and at work' and 'Save Europe now!' I would dearly like to see these two articles on the front page of every daily newspaper. I have found inspiration and help in every page . . ."

*From FRANK MARSDEN, Prestwich Branch* : "The size is very handy and one cannot say anything against the improvement. But the contents of the first issue, I think, are disappointing to the average Toc H member, as I think that the articles 'In Germany Now' and 'Australia Comes of Age' are of no interest to them and take up half of the JOURNAL and so have crowded out other interesting matter that would have been useful to most of the readers . . ."

*From CHARLES THOMPSON, London* : "The new JOURNAL, I hope, will bring you many congratulations on introducing a more suitable size, particularly for people travelling . . . Thank you for your article on Germany. Can one help—in money or kind? I'm sure there must be many who feel they would like to help in some way if they were told how."

(NOTE : Other members and units have asked the same question. We hope next month to publish some notes on ways and means of helping.—ED.)

*From ALFRED DAVIES, Seaford Branch* : "Your first number of Toc H JOURNAL (first of Vol. XXV.—Ed.) I received at our Branch meeting last Tuesday. First, I was surprised when told it was sixpence. Why is this? Its size is an improvement, its contents no better than previously. If the principles of Toc H are for its members a way of life, why is it necessary that so much money is needed to spread the gospel of good news? This includes the 'sixpence'."

NOTE : A small calculation will help to explain the sixpence. Take the last number of the old size JOURNAL, and the first of the new. December, 1946, 16 pages for 3d., contained approximately 8,600 words, plus 3 pictures but no cover; January, 1947, 40 pages for 6d., contained approximately 16,000 words, plus 5 pictures and 4 pages of cover. Add to this the fact that printing costs have risen steeply since the price of 3d. for 16 pages was fixed early in the late war, and that words, whether dull or weary, cost the same to set up. Sorry they are dull; we are still trying.—ED.

*From a Wolverton Branch member* : "I am immensely pleased with the new JOURNAL and will certainly encourage all to read it—whereas, before, chaps didn't really bother about it . . ."

*From GEORGE DIXON, Bristol* : "Your double achievement of the JOURNAL, in new dress and that article on Germany is indeed a notable one . . . I like especially the layout of the new JOURNAL. It would seem that a neater balance between illustration, solid matter and 'shorts' is achieved by giving each a separate page. In brief I—and all others save the inevitable 5 per cent. or so of diehards—must surely be converted by its neat and dignified appearance and by the sustained excellence of the contents of No 1 . . . And may one errant reader admit that for the first time in months he has read it from cover to cover. This is because it was here when he had a precious moment or two—in his pocket."

## A BAG OF BOOKS

What do we believe?

*How Heathen is Britain?* By B. G. Sandhurst. (Collins. 2s. 6d.)

There isn't much choice in books with stiff covers at this price nowadays, and this may be counted last year's best half-crownsworth.

In an excellent preface C. S. Lewis (his opinion counts with most of us) gives the clue to the author's aim:—

"...Two facts emerge from his record unshaken. Firstly, that the content of, and the case for, Christianity are not put before most schoolboys under the present system; and secondly, that when they are so put a majority find them acceptable. The importance of these two facts is that between them they blow away a whole fog of 'reasons for the decline of religion' which are often advanced and often believed... If you make the adults of today Christian, the children of tomorrow will receive a Christian education. What a society has, that, be sure, and nothing else it will hand on to its young. The work is urgent, for men perish round us."

The author is most modest about his own powers and the ways in which he set to work to deal with a vital problem—'putting over', in the space of eighteen months, to some 400 young men likely to become officers the central truth of the Christian faith. He spends very little time on theory—plenty of Christian writers do that every year, plenty of preachers every Sunday. He tells you about his method; he gives you his actual questions and the synopsis of his actual talks and arguments; he quotes the actual words of some of his students. He was up against what the ordinary philosopher or theologian would account an impossible task—to compress into five short 'periods' of teaching the answers to the most vital questions there are—  
(1) Is man merely animal or spiritual?; (2) Are there such things as Right and Wrong- (a third of his pupils just didn't know);  
(3) Was Jesus God as well as Man? (half of them said 'Yes', a third were not sure, the residue were positive sceptics);  
(4 and 5) Are the Gospels true? If so, what proofs are there?  
(6) What are the 'title-deeds' of the Christian faith?

This book is very simple, very convincing. It shows you the enormous danger in which our confused, materialistic age stands—and it puts its finger on one remedy.

B.B.

### After the Atom Bomb

*Hiroshima.* John Hersey. (Penguin 1/-); *Programme for Survival.* Lewis Mumford. (Secker and Warburg. 3/6d.).

I can remember the intense feelings of disgust and fear when I heard on the radio about the dropping of the first atomic bomb. The passage of time has lowered the intensity of course, indeed it has tended to push the feelings out of the way altogether, but they are still there. This, I think, is fairly general.

The subject has produced a spate of writing, much of it quite beyond the average layman. Here are two small books that any of us can tackle. They provide a good starting off point for we must try to understand this matter and its significance for the future. Both are written by Americans for Americans but all they have to say applies equally to us. Whatever initial responsibility there is for the use of this weapon we must share it.

*Hiroshima* by John Hersey tells us what the bomb does. The immediate results and, worse still, the after effects not merely on men's bodies but on their minds. The story is told through the mouths of six survivors. It is told quietly and with the utmost economy of words. The people who talk to us are like us, indeed they might be us. It is an extremely moving account.

*Programme for Survival* by Lewis Mumford is an attempt at diagnosis and cure. "Nothing is sacred but human life". With this dictum most of us will agree even if we feel it needs some qualification. Somehow the means of living have displaced the ends, we don't know why we live, our values are not personal. Man has conceived a personality whose main characteristic is the displacement of the human by the mechanical. The cure is nothing less than the radical making over of the personality of modern man. "If love is to replace aggression, if integration is to overcome disintegration, every institution and organisation through which human beings operate must address itself to the task in hand". There is plenty in these books for us to think about, discuss and act upon. The duty of saving mankind from its own potential self-destructiveness falls first of all on each individual. Our action station for the business of living, this is just an aspect of it, is the place where we are.

J.H.M.S.

## THE ELDER BRETHREN

BURTON.—On July 18, 1945, G. A. BURTON, aged 77, a member of Sutton-on-Sea Branch. Elected 20.9.'34.

CARTWRIGHT.—On December 11, 1944, H. E. CARTWRIGHT, a member of Sutton-on-Sea Branch. Elected 10.3.'36.

CLEMETSON.—On December 26, 1946, FRANK CLEMETSON, a General member, Western Area. Elected at Rio de Janeiro, 1930.

DRURY.—On December 13, 1946, Rev. CLEMENT DRU DRURY, a member from the Cavendish Association and Padres' Fellowship, 1921.

EVANS.—On December 25, 1946, JAMES EVANS, aged 86, a member of Teignmouth Branch. Elected 15.12.'34.

FARQUHARSON.—On January 3, Rev. EDWARD EUSTACE FARQUHARSON, aged 67, Padre of Great Bowden Group (Market Harborough). Elected 21.1.'35.

HARDY.—On November 27, 1946, H. S. ('POP.') HARDY, aged 71, a founder member, former Chairman and Jobmaster of Bulawayo Branch, Rhodesia.

HUMPHREY.—On December 6, 1946, BERTRAM JOHN HUMPHREY, C.P.O., R.N., one-time Jobmaster of Barnet Branch. Elected 21.6.'39.

KNAPP-FISHER.—In December, 1946, Prebendary GEORGE EDWIN KNAPP-FISHER, aged 60, Padre of Minchead Branch. Elected 19.12.'35.

LAING.—On March 20, 1945, a prisoner of war in the Far East, RONALD LAING, of Sevenoaks.

NICHOLLS.—On December 23, 1946, in England Canon R. M. NICHOLLS, former Padre of Malta Branch. Elected 31.8.'31.

RADY.—In 1946, W. B. RADY, a General member, South Western Area. Elected (Bodmin Group) 2.3.'39.

RALPH.—On November 26, 1946, STANLEY E. RALPH, a crippled member of Harpenden Branch. Elected 11.7.'46.

ROBINSON.—On November 11, 1946, WALTER ROBINSON, a member of Harehills Branch. Elected 31.3.'37.

WILSON.—On December 1, 1946, HAROLD WILLIAM WILSON, aged 58, a member of Wellington Branch (Salop). Elected 4.5.'29.

*Correction:* We regret that the date of PETER MONIE's death was given on p. 23 of the January JOURNAL as November 10. It was correctly given on pages 21 and 22 as December 10.

## INTERPRETER

*Life seems hum-drum to some of us since the war ended—until, by thinking back or meeting someone, we are reminded that 'things happen.' As we are tempted to settle down cosily in our routine in Toc H it is worth while ever and again to think of adventure—and to seek it. Here's one story, casually come upon. There are thousands to match it, out of all sorts of fields of experience, our own and other men's. If you have a true story, write it briefly and send it to the Editor.*

THE Sergeant sat, with a cup of tea, chatting about Toc H in our Club in Berlin. He has the delicate face of a student, with bright humorous eyes behind his glasses. Just a touch in his speech betrays him. He wears our battle-dress but he isn't an Englishman yet. He expects that he soon will be.

"By the way," I said, "how did you land up as a British interpreter?"

He hesitated for a minute. "Well," he began, "it's a common sort of a story. I made up my mind from the start that I would never fight for Hitler: that would be fighting against everything that matters. Of course, a pacifist went to a prison or concentration camp. I went to prison."

(I didn't ask him anything about that, but I knew. I suddenly remembered the hunted look on another man's face when I had asked him about his time in a concentration camp. He had said, "I'd rather not talk about it—it hadn't any connection with real life. You wouldn't understand." A month later I heard a bit more about the Interpreter from a friend of his. He had been sent to the S.S. Prison at Düsseldorf, together with the leader of his section of the old Youth Movement. He was there "examined" by the Storm Troopers—not a process to write about—but had given nothing away. His leader was sent on to a concentration camp where, several years later, he died a horrible death).

"I came out," he went on simply, "and in the end got to Lisbon." (I didn't ask about what happened in between—that would be another story). "I was in a Portuguese prison for two years—it wasn't nice." (Again I didn't interrupt him). "And when I was released the German consul—Nazi, of course, sent

for me. He wanted me to go to Madrid. I knew what that meant and refused. He wrote me a very angry letter : I never answered it. The Gestapo were after me all the time. I knew a man with a yacht, and one night I slipped on board, with a friend. We got to Tangier."

"A bit safer?" He nodded. "And then?"

"I had to get to England—to help. My friend and I got a small boat and set out for Gibraltar. There was a bad storm in the Straits; my friend was washed overboard and drowned. The boat was full of water. I kept it trimmed for hours, with my legs over the side. It was near enough to land to be seen, and a Spanish motor-boat came out to the rescue. I waved them away—I was all ready to go to the bottom if they tried to rescue me. That would mean Madrid—the Gestapo. They sheered off at last."

"And then?"

"And then a British trawler came out from Gib. They saw my signals. They pulled me on board; it was about time. And then a very strange thing happened" (he laughed as he remembered the details). "The first man on deck who spoke to me was a British Naval Officer, Intelligence. He asked me my name, and then he pulled a file of papers out and opened it. 'We've been on the look out for you,' he said, 'ever since you gave them the slip in Lisbon : we knew about that. We expected you to crop up.'"

"So you got to England. Isle of Man?"

"Yes," he said, "I was interned, of course. Oh, I didn't mind that at all. They treated us well. There were some fine men there and plenty of books: I could study and think and rest. I was almost sorry to leave." He shrugged his shoulders; it was a charming gesture of apology.

"And then, I guess, you joined the Pioneer Corps?" (Others of my friends had graduated in the same way).

"Yes," he replied "and then I landed in Normandy and came, through the fighting, up here."

We went back to our talk about Toc H and its plans. An hour later we drove him into the ruined City, where we had business. In the Kaiserdamm he got out of the car, shook hands and walked away.

B.B.